

REMARKS

Summary

Amended independent Claims 1, 44, and 87 recite at least one feature not disclosed or suggested by the art discussed in the application and the patent to Jois, et al. Therefore, is the outstanding rejection of these claims over this art still proper?

Status of the claims

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32-36, 39-41, 44, 46-57, 59-67, 69, 70, 72, 73, 75-79, 82-84, and 87 are pending. Claims 25 and 68 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 29, 44, 72, 87 have been amended. Claims 1, 44, and 87 are independent.

Requested action

Applicants respectfully request the Office to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Rejections

Claims 1, 44, and 87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art discussed at pages 1-4 of the application in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,242 (Jois, et al.). Claims 3-8, 11-14, 19-27, 29, 30, 39-41, 46-51, 54-57, 62-70, 72, 73, and 82-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art discussed at pages 1-4 of the application in view of the patent to Jois, et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,786,814 (Moran, et al.). Claims 9, 10, 52, and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art discussed at pages 1-4 of the application in view of the

patent to Moran, et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,918,222 (Fukui, et al.) Claims 16-18 and 59-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art discussed at pages 1-4 of the application in view of the patent to Moran, et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,727,129 (Barrett, et al.) Claims 32-36 and 75-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art discussed at pages 1-4 of the application in view of the patent to Moran, et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,018,342 (Bristor).

Response to rejections

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent Claims 1, 44, and 87 have been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 relates to an information processing apparatus comprising input means for entering information, first output processing means, storage means, data selection means, output processing selection means, and second output processing means.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first output processing means is for printing the information entered at the input means as a first output processing operation.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the storage means is for storing printing information which has been printed by the first output processing means as hysteresis data for printing. Claim 1 also recites that the data selection means is for selecting one of the hysteresis data from the storage means.

Claim 1 has been further amended to recite that the output processing selection means is for selecting one of a plurality of types of output processing which is different from the printing as a second output processing operation.

Finally, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the second output processing means is for performing the second output processing operation on the printed information contained in the hysteresis data selected by the data selection means.

In contrast, the art discussed at pages 1-4 of the application and the patent to Jois, et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest second output processing means for performing a second output processing operation on printed information contained in the hysteresis data selected by the data selection means, where output processing selection means selects one of a plurality of types of output processing which is different from the printing by first output processing means as the second output processing operation, as recited by amended Claim 1.

The failure of these references to disclose or suggest at least these features proves fatal to establishing a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 1, since MPEP §2142, requires that:

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness... the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

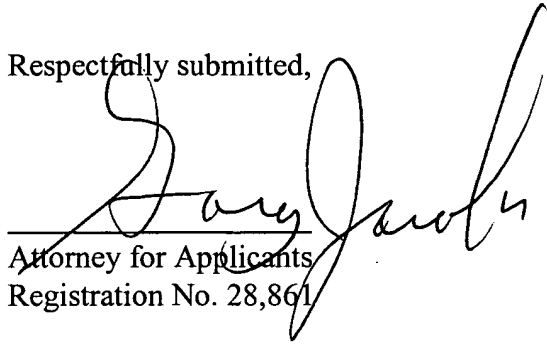
For this reason, amended Claim 1 is allowable over this art. And because independent Claims 44 and 87 have been amended in a similar manner, they are allowable for similar reasons.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given with respect to the independent claims and because they recite features which are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the claims are now in allowable form.
Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile No.: (212) 218-2200

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MARKED-UP AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Three Times Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
- input means for entering information;
- first output processing means for [performing one of a plurality of types of output processing as a first output processing operation on] printing the information entered at said input means as a first output processing operation;
- storage means for storing [output] printing information which has been [output] printed by said first output processing means [with the type of the first output processing] as hysteresis data for [the first output processing operation] printing;
- data selection means for selecting one of the hysteresis data from said storage means;
- output processing selection means for selecting one of a plurality of types of output processing which is different from the [first output processing] printing as a second output processing operation; and
- second output processing means for performing the second output processing operation on the [output] printed information contained in the hysteresis data selected by said data selection means.
29. (Three Times Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second output processing operation performed by said second output processing means is an output of an instruction to another apparatus to execute a predetermined process on the [output] printed information.

44. (Three Times Amended) An information processing method comprising:

- an input step of entering information;
- a first output processing step of [performing one of a plurality of types of output processing as a first output processing operation on] printing the information entered at said input means as a first output processing operation;
- a storage step of storing [output] printed information which has been [output] printed at said first output processing step [with the type of the first output processing] as hysteresis data for [the first output processing operation] printing;
- a data selection step of selecting one of the hysteresis data stored at said storage step;
- an output processing selection step of selecting one of a plurality of types of output processing which is different from the [first output processing] printing as a second output processing operation; and
- a second output processing step of performing the second output processing operation on the [output] printed information contained in the hysteresis data selected at said data selection step.

72. (Twice Amended) An information processing method according to claim 44, wherein said second output processing operation performed at said second processing step is an output of an instruction to another apparatus to execute a predetermined process on the [output] printed information.

87. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is stored an information processing program for permitting a computer to perform information processing, said program comprising codes for causing said computer to perform:

an input step of entering information;

a first output processing step of [performing one of a plurality of types of output processing as a first output processing operation on] printing the information entered at said input step as a first output processing operation;

a storage step of storing the [output] printed information which has been [output] printed at said first output processing step [with the types of the first output processing] as hysteresis data for [the first output processing operation] printing;

a data selection step of selecting one of the hysteresis data stored at said storage step;

an output processing selection step of selecting one of a plurality of types of output processing which is different from the [first output processing] printing as a second output processing operation; and

a second output processing step of performing the second output processing operation on the [output] printed information contained in the hysteresis data selected at said data selection step.